

Filed for intro on 04/03/2002

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 802
By Goins

A RESOLUTION to honor The Isaacs for their considerable
contributions to southern gospel bluegrass
music.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those gifted musicians who, through their talent and dedication, have made significant contributions to the musical heritage of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, The Isaacs, one such musical group, have reached the very pinnacle of the entertainment profession and made an indelible mark on southern gospel bluegrass music and the rich musical legacy of this State; and

WHEREAS, through their extraordinary talent and outstanding work ethic, the members of The Isaacs, Lily Fishman Isaacs, Ben Isaacs, Sonya Isaacs Surrett, Rebecca Isaacs Bowman, John Bowman, Tim Surrett, and Adam Steffy, have created lasting and inspiring albums that have had both critical and commercial success; and

HJR0802

01341583

WHEREAS, based out of LaFollette, Tennessee, The Isaacs have been traveling and performing at venues around this country for nearly thirty years; devout Christians, The Isaacs's music is founded in their strong faith in God and in the fine tradition of bluegrass music; and

WHEREAS, the matriarch and vocalist of the group, Lily Fishman Isaacs was born in Germany after World War II, the daughter of Jewish Holocaust survivors; in 1971, she converted to Christianity; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong singer, she released a folk album on Columbia Records in 1968 and was involved in off-Broadway theatre; and

WHEREAS, Ben Isaacs, the oldest of Lily's three children, sings and plays bass for the group and has produced the last three projects, one of which won a Dove Award for Bluegrass Gospel Album of the Year; in December of 1997, Ben married Krystal Crabb of Owensboro, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, Sonya Isaacs Surrett is a talented singer and songwriter as well as an accomplished musician, her instrument of choice being the mandolin; she has received several awards and was voted Horizon Individual at the Singing News Fan Awards in 1993; and

WHEREAS, a vocalist and guitarist for The Isaacs, Rebecca Isaacs Bowman also writes, plays the piano, dobro, banjo, and almost any other instrument she decides to pick up; she has been nominated for several awards; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished singer and musician, John Bowman has previously traveled with Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver and Alison Krauss and Union Station; with The Isaacs, John Bowman sings and plays guitar and banjo; he married Rebecca Isaacs in 1994; in August of 1997, he was called into the ministry, and now, when he is not traveling with the band, he spends his time holding revivals; John and Rebecca have one son, Levi; and

WHEREAS, Tim Surrett was the lead vocalist and bass player for the legendary Kingsmen Quartet for seven years; in July of 1995, he married Sonya Isaacs and joined The

Isaacs musical group; his dynamic vocal ability and fine musicianship added a finishing touch to the already established group; and

WHEREAS, now a permanent member of The Isaacs, Adam Steffy joined the group when Sonja Isaacs Surrett took a short leave of absence to perform with Vince Gill during his summer tour in 1998; previously, he distinguished himself playing mandolin with Alison Krauss and Union Station; and

WHEREAS, highly respected by their peers, the music industry, and the public, the members of this superb group are a favorite on the Grand Old Opry, were featured guests on CBS Television's production of Opryland Country Christmas, and have been nominated for some of music's highest honors, including a Grammy; they were named the Southern Gospel Bluegrass Group of the Year in 1999 and have received multiple Dove Awards; and

WHEREAS, The Isaacs's songs have brought joy to music fans nationwide; the group's latest hits, "He Understands My Tears" and "Stand Still," the title track of its newest CD, have received critical acclaim and have been popular on southern gospel radio stations; and

WHEREAS, The Isaacs's tremendous success is directly attributable to their rare ability to reach to the very core of people from all walks of life through their music, relating to their experiences and capturing their hearts and minds; and

WHEREAS, one of the finest gospel bluegrass groups of our time, the Isaacs have made substantial contributions to the rich musical traditions of this state; their timeless and poignant albums have enjoyed widespread and lasting success; and

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of this legislative body to pay tribute to these remarkable artists who have given so much to bluegrass music and the citizens of this great State and Nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor The Isaacs, acknowledge their significant contributions

to southern gospel bluegrass music and the musical heritage of Tennessee, applaud their commitment to excellence, commend their deep faith in God, and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success and happiness in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.